CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   An apparatus, comprising:

an application server component that associates a data stream with a call

5   through employment of an identifier within a message associated with the call.

2.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the application server component

employs the identifier to establish the data stream.

3.   The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the application server component

associates the identifier with the call through employment of the message.

10   4.   The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the application server component

employs the identifier to associate one or more available services with the data stream;

        wherein the application server component employs the data stream to provide

one or more services, of the one or more available services.

5.   The apparatus of claim 4, wherein the application server component

15   associates the one or more services with the call through employment of the identifier.

6.   The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the application server component

selects the identifier from a plurality of available identifiers;

        wherein the application server component associates the identifier with the call.

7.   The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the data stream comprises a first data

stream, wherein the call comprises a first call, wherein the identifier comprises a first

identifier of the plurality of available identifiers;

wherein the application server component selects the first identifier and a

5   second identifier from the plurality of available identifiers;

wherein the application server component employs the second identifier to

associate a second data stream with a second call.

8.   The apparatus of claim 6, wherein upon termination of the data stream,

the application server component returns the identifier to the plurality of available

10   identifiers.

9.   The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:

a switch component that cooperates with the application server component to

associate the data stream with the call through employment of the identifier.

10.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the application server component

15   provides the identifier to the switch component.

11.   The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the switch component

communicates with the application server component to obtain the identifier.

12.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the application server component

receives the identifier from the switch component.

13.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the switch component

communicates with the application server component to provide the identifier to the

application server component.

14.   The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the application server component

5   employs the identifier to establish the data stream.

15.   The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the switch component cooperates

with the application server component to provide one or more services of one or more

available services through employment of the data stream.

16.   The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the switch component establishes

10   the call;

wherein the switch component cooperates with the application server

component to update the call based on the one or more services.

17. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the switch component comprises a first switch component, wherein the application server component comprises a first application component, wherein the identifier comprises an address associated with the first application server component, the apparatus further comprising:

5   a second application server component; and

        a second switch component;

        wherein the first application server component cooperates with the first switch component to provide the identifier to the second application server component through employment of the message;

10   wherein the first switch component and the second switch component cooperate establish the call through employment of the message;

        wherein the first application server component cooperates with the second application server component to establish the data stream through employment of the identifier.

15

18.   A method, comprising the step of:

establishing a data stream associated with a call through employment of an

identifier within a message associated with the call.

19.   The method of claim 18, wherein the identifier comprises an address

5   associated with an application server component, wherein the step of establishing the

data stream associated with the call through employment of the identifier within the

message associated with the call comprises the step of:

establishing the data stream with the application server component through

employment of the identifier.

10   20.   The method of claim 19, wherein the message conforms to a first

signaling protocol, wherein the data stream conforms to a second signaling protocol,

wherein the step of establishing the data stream with the application server component

through employment of the identifier within the message associated with the call, the

method, comprising the steps of:

15   establishing the call through employment of the message; and

establishing the data stream with the application server component through

employment of the second signaling protocol.

21.   An article, comprising:

one or more computer-readable signal-bearing media;

means in the one or more media for establishing a data stream associated with a

call through employment of an identifier within a message associated with the call.

5   *   *   *   *   *